

## **FACT SHEET**

### **PROPOSED AMENDMENTS TO THE AIR TOXICS RULE FOR THE MISCELLANEOUS ORGANIC CHEMICAL MANUFACTURING INDUSTRY**

#### **ACTION**

- On November 28, 2005, the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) proposed to amend the air toxics rule for the Miscellaneous Organic Chemical Manufacturing industry. Owners or operators of organic chemical manufacturing process units that are located at industrial facilities will be affected by these proposed amendments.
- EPA published a national rule to limit emissions of toxic air pollutants from these operations in 2003. That rule is one of 96 rules called maximum achievable control technology (MACT) standards that require 174 industry sectors to eliminate 1.5 million tons per year of toxic air pollutants. Congress listed these toxic air pollutants in the Clean Air Act.
- The proposed amendments are part of a settlement agreement entered into by EPA and petitioners of the 2003 final air toxics rule for this industry. The petitioners are the American Chemistry Council, Eastman Chemical Company, Clariant LSM (America), Inc., Rohm and Haas Company, General Electric Company, Lyondell Chemical Company and the Coke Ovens Environmental Task Force.
- The petitioners raised several issues including:
  - inclusion of specific operations and processes in the rule,
  - the leak detection and repair requirements for connectors,
  - definition of process vents and affected wastewater streams,
  - control requirements for wastewater streams that contain only soluble air toxics,
  - the definition of process condensers, and
  - recordkeeping requirements for batch process vents.
- In this action, EPA proposes to amend the rule to address these issues and to correct inconsistencies that have been discovered during the review process. The amendments also propose to extend the compliance date from November 10, 2006 to May 10, 2008, because several of the proposed changes may cause owners and operators to revise their implementation and compliance strategy.
- The proposed amendments do not alter the maximum available control technology (MACT) standards and do not change the health or environmental impacts.
- There are no additional costs associated with the proposed amendments.

#### **BACKGROUND**

- The Clean Air Act requires EPA to identify categories of industrial sources that emit one or more of the listed toxic air pollutants.
- EPA published the final rule for Miscellaneous Chemical Manufacturing Industry in the Federal Register on November 10, 2003. EPA estimated that the final rule will reduce HAP emissions by 16,800 tons per year for existing facilities that manufacture miscellaneous organic chemicals.

### **FOR MORE INFORMATION**

- To download the proposed action from EPA's website, go to "Recent Actions" at the following address: <http://www.epa.gov/ttn/oarpg/>
- For further information about the proposal rule, contact Mr. Randy McDonald of the EPA's Office of Air Quality Planning and Standards by phone (919) 541-5402 or by e-mail at [mcdonald.randy@epa.gov](mailto:mcdonald.randy@epa.gov).
- Today's proposal notice and other background information are also available either electronically in EDOCKET, EPA's electronic public docket and comment system, or in hardcopy at EPA's Air and Radiation Docket and Information Center, Environmental Protection Agency, Room B102, 1301 Constitution Avenue, NW, Washington, DC (Docket ID No. OAR-2003-0121). The Public Reading Room is open from 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., Monday through Friday, excluding legal holidays. The telephone number for the Public Reading Room is (202) 566-1744, and the telephone number for the Air and Radiation Docket and Information Center is (202) 566-1742.
- Comments should be identified by Docket ID Nos. OAR-2003-0121 or A-96-04 and submitted by one of the following methods: Federal eRulemaking Portal (<http://www.regulations.gov>); EDOCKET (<http://www.epa.gov/edocket>); e-mail ([a-and-r-docket@epa.gov](mailto:a-and-r-docket@epa.gov)); facsimile ((202) 566-1741); mail (Air and Radiation Docket and Information Center, Environmental Protection Agency, Mailcode: 6102T, 1200 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW, Washington, DC 20460); or hand delivery (Air and Radiation Docket and Information Center, Environmental Protection Agency, Room B102, 1301 Constitution Avenue, NW, Washington, DC).
- The EPA's Office of Air and Radiation (OAR) home page on the Internet contains a wide range of information on the air toxics program, as well as many other air pollution programs and issues. The OAR home page address is: <http://www.epa.gov/oar/>.